

Nov. 18-20,
1999

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met on November 18th and 19th in Gander and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Executive) met on the evening of November 19th and all day on the 20th. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions occurring at these meetings. For further information please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities 1999-2000

As identified in the last issue of Executive Notes, the priorities of the Association for 1999-2000 are collective bargaining preparations, membership involvement, curriculum issues, and classroom issues. A detailed document was circulated to both Provincial Executive and Joint Council outlining action plans under each topic, who is responsible, the target date for implementation, and an action update if available.



A copy of the report can be obtained from your Provincial Executive member or your Branch President.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

School Representative Seminars

A summary report from the School Representative seminars was distributed which included a compilation of the reports from the small group sessions and a summary of the evaluation forms received from participants at the seminars.

An on-line audio-visual presentation of one of the seminars was available for Branch Presidents to review. The on-line information included video of the actual presentation, the presentations, as well as an interactive section for input or feedback. School Representatives should be able to access this information on the NLTA website in the near future.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Canadian Teachers' Federation

The President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Marilies Rettig, attended both the Provincial Executive and Joint Council meetings to update teachers on CTF activities. She addressed issues in collective bargaining across the country and the difficulties being encountered in various areas. CTF has been tracking the issue of supply and demand of teachers since last November. By the year 2004 there is expected to be a supply and demand problem. Due to stress-related problems, teachers are leaving early in their careers. She announced that there should be a conference next year re. this issue.

Other topics that were addressed were testing, the teacher mobility agreement,

certification, professional development, as well as other general education issues.

For further information contact Fred Andrews , President.

Group Insurance Website Presentation

Chris Spurvey, Co-ordinator, Corporate Internet, with Johnson Incorporated, made a presentation to Joint Council re. the Members-Only Internet site. Through the site NLTA members will be able to both view and interact with their group benefits and insurance information, and communicate directly with their personally assigned service supervisors. Teachers at the meeting were presented with an information package about the site as well as their user name and password.

For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Group Insurance, or Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Pathways

A panel discussion took place on Pathways which provided Joint Council the opportunity to express areas of concern with the implementation of Pathways. Various perspectives were discussed and the panel did an outstanding job in expressing the concerns around the issue. It had been intended that a representative of the Department of Education would be in attendance and take part in this panel discussion. Since the participation of a representative from the Department of Education did not occur, the following motion was approved: That the President express in writing to the Minister of Education the frustration and displeasure of the Association and Joint Council with the fact that no Department representative was in attendance for the panel discussion on Pathways at the November 20 meeting and that no prior notice was given of the non-availability of Ms. Brenda Kelleher-Flight.

For further information contact Fred Andrews , President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

After extensive discussion and deliberation, Provincial Executive made a number of decisions based on reports and recommendations from the NLTA Standing Committees. Among these decisions were:

- The Legal Aid Policy will be amended by adding a new subsection 4, "Employment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, TPP Disability and CPP Disability Appeals".
The new section will read:
 - a) "Legal advice/assistance may be provided to teachers who wish to present an EI Appeal to the Umpire; an External Workers' Compensation Appeal, a Teachers' Pension Plan Disability Appeal; or a Canada Pension Plan Disability Appeal to the Tribunal.
 - b) Legal Assistance for such appeals shall be provided only in cases when the appeal has the support of the Association.
 - c) Support of the Association for the appeal will be based on the recommendation of Administrative Staff in the Benefits and Economic Services Division in consultation with the legal firm retained by NLTA."

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- Subsequent to the distribution of an information package on the issue of province-wide voting, and prior to the conduct of a poll, the membership will be given an opportunity to debate the issue through arrangements at the local branch level, as determined by the branch president, in contact with the Provincial Executive person.
- A survey of the entire membership regarding province-wide voting for the office of president and vice-president will be conducted in-house using the questions formulated in the revised survey poll.

For further information on these two items contact Winston Carter, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Province-wide Voting or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The Provincial Executive, through the Curriculum Committee, will conduct a survey of high school teachers on the reinstatement of public exams.

For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, Curriculum Committee or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Joint Council

The following two motions were approved at the Joint Council meetings as recommendations to Executive:

- The Executive of NLTA will direct its legal advisors to identify any and all measures that can be taken to ensure our ability to protect the membership from unreasonable demands imposed by the employer, particularly regarding Pathways.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The NLTA will organize public forums where the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, school boards, the Federation of School Councils, divisions of the Department of Education, Department of Justice (Youth Division), Department of Human Resources and Employment (Youth Division) will be invited to listen to concerns from the education field regarding Pathways.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Other Business

- The issue of bonuses for vice-principals where there is more than one vice-principal for a school will be referred to the committee dealing with school administrators' concerns.

For further information contact the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- NLTA endorses the "Education Now: Break the Cycle of Poverty" campaign as

initiated jointly by Oxfam and Education International. A representative of Oxfam will be invited to attend the next Executive meeting to discuss the campaign.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The issue of commercial reading programs being implemented in schools will be investigated by the Association through the Professional Development and Benefits and Economic Services Divisions regarding the corporate intrusion into education issues and non-certified teachers teaching such programs in the schools. The issue will also be an agenda item for the upcoming CAPTO meeting.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The issue of distance education teachers not being provided with a substitute teacher when on leave will be investigated by the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

For further information contact the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- The holding of a ratification vote amongst teachers in Labrador regarding the Labrador Benefits Package has been approved and is tentatively set for December 3.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

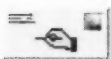
- The Association will forward official correspondence to the school boards of the province encouraging them not to schedule professional development days on weekends.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director, or Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

The issue of the 200 kilometres for the Group Insurance Transportation Benefit was discussed and concerns were raised. It was suggested that this issue be revisited by the Group Insurance Committee.

For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Group Insurance, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

NEXT MEETING



The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **January 7 and 8, 2000** in St. John's. For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

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